

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A service method of a rental storage, in which a rental storage user uses the rental storage provided by a storage provider on a network and said storage user and said storage provider communicate with respect to the rental storage service, comprising the steps of:

providing by the rental storage service provider the estimation of future storage usage of said rental storage service user, based on the history of storage usage of said rental storage service user; and

reporting the estimation to said storage user.

2. A service method of a rental storage, in which a rental storage user uses the rental storage provided by a storage service provider on a network and said storage user and said storage provider communicate with respect to the rental storage service, comprising the steps of:

making a contract between said rental storage service provider and said rental storage service user so as to configure the contract options based on the contract of use of storage service;

using the storage of said rental storage service provider by the rental storage service user;

reporting the charge to the rental storage service user
by the rental storage service provider;

paying the charge for the use of said storage by the rental
storage service user to the rental storage service provider;

5 reporting the history of storage usage record and the
estimated amount of data to the rental storage service user from
the rental storage service provider; and

reconfiguring said contract options by said rental
storage service provider.

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3. A service method of a rental storage, in which a rental
storage user uses the rental storage provided by a storage
service provider on a network and said storage user and said
storage provider communicate with respect to the rental storage
service, comprising the steps of:

when said rental storage service provider and said rental
storage service user make a contract and the contract options
based on the contract of use of said storage specifies a charge
system for the contracted amount of data according to the
predetermined usage,

estimating by said rental storage service provider the
storage usage in the future based on the history of storage usage
by said rental storage service user;

proposing to said rental storage service user a

recommended contract on the amount of data according to the estimation.

4. A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 3,
5 in which:

the step of proposing to said rental storage service user
a recommended contract on the amount of data include the substep
of:

proposing reduction of amount of data contracted for the
10 storage usage if the storage usage estimated is less than the
currently contracted storage usage.

5. A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 3,
in which:

15 when said rental storage service user updates said
contract options in accordance with the desirable amount of data
usage of storage recommended by said rental storage service
provider,

20 if the amount of data usage by said rental storage service
user exceeds the contracted amount of data for storage usage
reconfigured within the contract period of the contract,

said rental storage service user will be allowed using
the storage service for the data beyond the contracted amount
of said storage usage.

6. A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

proposing by said rental storage service provider a
5 reduction plan of data used by said rental storage service user;
and

reducing the data used by said rental storage service user in accordance with the recommended reduction plan of data;

prior to the step of reconfiguring said contract options.

7. A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 6, in which:

when said rental storage service user deletes data in use in accordance with the recommended reduction plan of data,

10 said rental storage service provider duplicates on a portable medium a backup copy of the data specified to delete by said rental storage service user; and

15 said rental storage service provider sends the backup copy of data to the rental storage service user.